

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Breakfast Session with the LA Times Washington Bureau

FROM:

Director, Office of External Affairs

EXTENSION

NO.

OEXA: 82-2535

DATE

15 November 1982

STAT
STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

DCI

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

Here are some background materials we hope will be useful for your breakfast session with the LA Times on 17 November at 8:00. Included are:

o bios on Bureau Chief Jack Nelson and Robert Toth,

o a recent article by Toth and one by Dennis Holder on the LA Times,

o excerpts from recent editorials on intelligence,

o some suggested topical issues likely to arise, and

o a transcript of the recent interview with Dan Southerland which contains your most recent answers to the bulk of the questions that will come up.

The LA Times Bureau has a staff of 24 reporters, most of whom will be at the breakfast. Only Toth has covered intelligence since you became DCI. Jack Nelson will be your host. I will accompany you.

STAT

OEXA/PAD/CEW/djc/15 Nov 82(Retyped: DD/OEXA/mlg)

Distribution:

orig - addressee

- DDCI
- EXDIR
- D/OEXA
- DD/OEXA
- ER
- OEXA Reg. 82-2535
- PAD Subject
- CEW Chrono
- PAD comeback
- PAD hold

DATA ON THE WASHINGTON BUREAU OF
THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

With a circulation of over one million, the LOS ANGELES TIMES is considered one of the most influential and authoritative newspapers in the West and makes an effort to have an impact in Washington as well by insuring that its daily product reaches high-level officials in the city on the day of publication. It maintains a well-staffed bureau in Washington and can count on its Bureau Chief, Jack Nelson, to maintain good contacts with the White House and Cabinet members. Nelson has been described as the "gutsiest" bureau chief in town as well as one of the best reporters covering political Washington. Nelson, now 53 years old, began his reporting career at the BILOXI DAILY HERALD some 30 years ago and subsequently made a reputation as a hard-hitting investigative reporter at the ATLANTA CONSTITUTION (where he was awarded a Pulitzer Prize) before moving to the TIMES in 1965. He became bureau chief in 1975.

Robert Toth, who has been assigned to cover national security affairs since his return as Moscow bureau chief in 1977, has written extensively on intelligence issues and is our main contact with the newspaper. He has been with the paper since at least 1973 and was detained for several days on charges of having acted as a CIA agent in Moscow in connection with dissident Anatoly Scharansky's arrest for

alleged espionage activities. Toth was reported to have been a perceptive analyst of Soviet events while he was assigned to Moscow. During former DCI Turner's tenure, Toth wrote critically of efforts to "open up" the Agency and reduce manpower. Since the advent of the current Administration, Toth's reporting has generally been favorable. (See attached article) Toth captured attention recently with his story of conflicts within the Administration on efforts to consolidate counterintelligence activities.

The breakfast is expected to be well attended; however, exactly who will attend will not be known until the last minute.